Amendment and Response dated June 9, 2004 Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Docket No.: 500-151

Page 2

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A curable composition comprising:

- (a) a urethane acrylate oligomer comprising at least one di- or poly-functional urethane acrylate monomer and at least one mono-functional urethane acrylate monomer;
 - (b) a reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent; and
 - (c) a cure system,
 wherein said composition when cured produces a Shore A hardness of about 55 or less.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The curable composition of claim 1, wherein said urethane acrylate oligomer comprises a di-functional <u>urethane acrylate</u> monomer present in amounts of about 25% to about 55% by weight of said curable composition.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The curable composition of claim 1, wherein said urethane acrylate oligomer comprises a di-functional <u>urethane acrylate</u> monomer present in amounts of about 30% to about 47% by weight of said curable composition.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The curable composition of claim 1, wherein said urethane acrylate oligomer comprises a mono-functional <u>urethane acrylate</u> monomer present in amounts of about 15% to about 65% by weight of said curable composition.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The curable composition of claim 1, wherein said urethane acrylate oligomer comprises a mono-functional <u>urethane acrylate</u> monomer present in amounts of about 10% to about 30% by weight of said curable composition.

Claim 6 (original): The urethane acrylate of claim 1, wherein said reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent comprises a mono-functional (meth)acrylate.

Amendment and Response dated June 9, 2004 Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Docket No.: 500-151

Page 3

Claim 7 (currently amended): The curable composition of claim 1, wherein said <u>di- or polyfunctional</u> urethane acrylate oligomer comprises a polyester aliphatic urethane-acrylate.

Claim 8 (original): The curable composition of claim 1, wherein said reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent is present in amounts of about 0.5 to about 45% by weight of said curable composition.

Claim 9 (original): The curable composition of claim 8, wherein said reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent is present in amounts of about 28% to about 45% by weight of said curable composition.

Claim 10 (original): The curable composition of claim 1, wherein said reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent is selected from the group consisting of 2(2-ethoxyethoxy)-ethyl acrylate, isobornyl acrylate and combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (original): The curable composition of claim 1, wherein said cure system comprises a photoinitiator.

Claim 12 (original): The curable composition of claim 11, wherein said photoinitiator is present in amounts of about 1% to about 10% by weight of the curable composition.

Claim 13 (original): The curable composition of claim 11, wherein said photoinitiator is present in amounts of about 4% to about 7% by weight of the curable composition.

Claim 14 (original): The curable composition of claim 1, further comprising a pigment selected from the group consisting of organic and inorganic pigments, dyes and combinations thereof.

Amendment and Response dated June 9, 2004 Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Docket No.: 500-151

Page 4

Claim 15 (original): The curable composition of claim 14, wherein said pigment composition is plasticized in a carrier.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A curable composition comprising:

- (a) a di-functional urethane acrylate oligomer, wherein said oligomer comprises about 35% to about 43% by weight of said curable composition;
- (b) a mono-functional urethane acrylate, wherein said mono-functional urethane acrylate is present in amounts of about 15% by weight of said curable composition;
- (c) a reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent, wherein said plasticizer or diluent is present in amounts of about 0.5% to about 43% by weight of said curable composition; and
- (d) a photoinitiator, wherein said photoinitiator is present in amounts of about 5% by weight of said curable composition,

wherein said composition when cured produces a Shore A hardness of about 55 or less.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The curable composition of claim 16, wherein said reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent comprises 2(2-ethoxyethoxy)-ethyl acrylate present in amounts of about 5% to about 10% by weight of said curable composition.

Claim 18 (previously presented): A composition comprising the reaction product of:

- (a) a urethane acrylate oligomer comprising at least one di- or poly-functional urethane acrylate monomer and at least one mono-functional urethane acrylate monomer; and
 - (b) a reactive plasticizer
 wherein said reaction product produces a Shore A hardness of about 55 or less.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A method of making a soft tip hearing aid component comprising the steps of:

- (a) combining a curable composition comprising:
- (i) a urethane acrylate oligomer comprising at least one di- or poly-functional urethane acrylate monomer and at least one mono-functional urethane acrylate monomer;

Amendment and Response dated June 9, 2004 Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Docket No.: 500-151

Page 5

- (ii) a reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent;
- (iii) a cure system;
- (b) pouring said curable composition into a mold cavity of a mold; and
- (c) exposing said curable composition to photo-radiation for a time and intensity sufficient to fully cure said composition to produce Shore A hardness of about 55 or less.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 19, further comprising the steps of adding on top of said component a layer of uncured monomeric material and curing said monomeric material.

Claim 21 (original): The method of claim 20, wherein said monomer material forms a hearing aid housing when cured.

Claim 22 (original): The method of claim 21, wherein curing said monomeric material on top of said component includes adhering to one another.

Claim 23 (previously presented): An ear-worn hearing aid component comprising the reaction product of:

- (a) a urethane acrylate oligomer comprising at least one di- or poly-functional urethane acrylate monomer and at least one mono-functional urethane acrylate monomer; and
 - (b) a reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent, wherein said composition when cured produces a Shore A hardness of about 55 or less.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A hearing aid assembly comprising:

- (a) amplifier means for receiving and amplifying unamplified sound;
- (b) a tube adapted for conveying amplified sound from said amplifier means to a first end of said tube inside the ear canal;
 - (c) a soft tip enclosing said tube comprising the reaction product of:

Amendment and Response dated June 9, 2004 Reply to Office Action of March 15, 2004

Docket No.: 500-151

Page 6

- (i) a urethane acrylate oligomer comprising at least one di- or poly-functional urethane acrylate monomer and at least one mono-functional urethane acrylate monomer; and
 - (ii) a reactive plasticizer or reactive diluent, wherein said soft tip exhibits a Shore A hardness of about 55 or less; and
- (d) a housing comprising a cured monomeric material enclosing said amplifier means and mating to said soft tip.